

*Encourages leaders to move past political labels*

**Washington, DC** – Today, Congressman Bruce Braley (D-IA) spoke at the No Labels launch event held at Columbia University in New York City. The event was hosted by No Labels, a nonpartisan organization committed to encouraging leaders to move past the political labels placed upon them in an effort to seek common sense solutions to our nation's problems. Students, citizen leaders and elected officials, on both sides of the political spectrum, gathered today with the hopes of starting a movement where people are able to move past the extreme partisanship and towards a creative, productive dialogue aimed at solving the challenges we face.

Joined by a bipartisan group of current and former elected officials, including Sens. Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC) and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I), among others, Braley called for politicians on both sides of the aisle to come together and "realize that we are most effective as a nation when we help people, not by abandoning our principles, but by coming together and having a rational, adult conversation about how we solve complex problems."

Braley also reflected on growing up in a bipartisan household, "I grew up in a no labels household, in a small no labels community called Brooklyn, Iowa. My father was a Republican, my mother was a Democrat—somehow they made it work," Braley said. "When people had a problem in the small town I grew up in they didn't ask if you were Republican or Democrat, they asked for your help and they got it. That is what public service is about."

Watch the clip of his remarks [here](#) .